



The Sixty-second Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art

Sixty-first American Music Festival

2 May 2004

Sunday Evenings, 7:00 pm

West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

*The sixty-first American Music Festival
is made possible in part by a generous gift from
the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation.*

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

For the convenience of concertgoers
the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 pm.

2,495th Concert

2 May 2004, 7:00 pm

Mark O'Connor, *violinist, fiddler, composer*

Carol Cook, *viola, violin*

Natalie Haas, *cello*

Pre-concert talk, 6:15 pm

National Public Radio music director

Benjamin Roe and a member of the ensemble
will discuss the music of Mark O'Connor.

*Program subject to change; Mark O'Connor will
announce and comment on the music from the stage.*

Mark O'Connor (b. 1963)

Old Country Fairy Tale (1993)

Chief Sitting in the Rain/College Hornpipe (1995)

Poem for Carlita (1999)

Caprice for Three (1997)

Appalachia Waltz (1993)

Blackberry Mull (2003)

Intermission

F.C.'s Jig (1996)

Brave Wolf (1997)

Limerock (1989)

Vistas (1999)

Olympic Reel (1996)

The Musicians

MARK O'CONNOR

Violinist, composer, and fiddler Mark O'Connor is widely recognized as one of the most gifted contemporary composers in America and surely one of the brightest talents of his generation. An excerpt from a recent feature in the *New York Times* eloquently describes his effect on his audiences: "The audience was on its feet....They were moved by Mr. O'Connor's journey without maps, cheering for the only musician today who can reach so deeply first into the refined, then the vernacular, giving his listeners a complex, sophisticated piece of early twenty-first-century classical music and then knocking them dead with the brown-dirt whine of a Texas fiddle."

A product of America's rich aural folk tradition, O'Connor's journey began at the feet of two violin masters: Texas fiddler Benny Thomasson and French jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli. Finding a place between their marvelous musical extremes, O'Connor absorbed knowledge and influence from a multitude of musical styles and genres. Now, at age forty-one, he has melded and shaped these influences into a new American classical music. Among the many famous musicians who have sought collaboration with O'Connor are Yo-Yo Ma, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, John Williams, Wynton Marsalis, double bassist Edgar Meyer, and the Oscar-winning composer Tan Dun. In cooperation with these and many other musicians, O'Connor has produced a rich and varied discography on the Sony Classical and OMAC Records labels. His *Appalachian Journey* won a Grammy award in 2001.

One of O'Connor's earliest commissions came in 1998 from the McKim Fund of the Library of Congress, resulting in a sonata for violin and piano. With more than 150 performances since it was written, O'Connor's *Fiddle Concerto No. 1* has become the most frequently performed violin concerto by a contemporary composer. His *The American Seasons: Seasons of an American*

Life was commissioned to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Troy Savings Bank Music Hall in Troy, New York. The work was featured in a twenty-eight-city tour with O'Connor as soloist with the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra. It was broadcast nationally on New Year's Day 2002 in a PBS program in which it was paired with Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. O'Connor's *Concerto No. 2* for violin and orchestra was commissioned by the Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields and received its premiere performance at the BBC Proms concert in 2003. Mark O'Connor has earned a reputation as a generous donor of his time to schools of music and to organizations that promote music education and outreach. He is the founder of the Mark O'Connor Fiddle Camp in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Mark O'Connor String Conference near San Diego, California, where he resides with his wife and two children. Mark O'Connor and the Appalachia Waltz Trio appear at the National Gallery by arrangement with Columbia Artists Management, LLC, of New York City.

CAROL COOK

Violist Carol Cook comes from Scotland, where she studied at Saint Mary's Music School in Edinburgh and performed as soloist with the Edinburgh and Guildhall Symphony Orchestras, the Cambridge Sinfonia, and the Edinburgh Players. She has also played with the New York Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra. She holds the artist diploma from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio, and the master of music degree from the Juilliard School in New York City.

NATALIE HAAS

Cellist Natalie Haas, age nineteen, has performed in festivals and concerts in Scotland, France, and the United States for the last three years and has been a touring member of the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers Orchestra for five years. She is currently studying at the Juilliard School with Fred Sherry. A California native, she performs with her sister Brittany in a fiddle-cello duo, as well as with the piano quintet Polaris, the Juilliard Symphony, and pianist Susie Petrov. She teaches privately and at the Mark O'Connor Fiddle Camp and Strings Conference.